Message Text

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R 261410Z JUN 78 FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0761

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ECON, EGEN, EFIN

SUBJ: PA INCREASES MILITARY PENSIONS BY 15 PER CENT

REF: CAIRO 15462

- 1. ACCORDING TO JUNE 16 LOCAL PRESS, PA HAS APPROVED TWO DRAFT BILLS PROVIDING IMPROVED MILITARY AND POLICE BENEFITS. FIRST BILL REPORTEDLY INCREASES MILITARY PENSIONS BY 15 PER CENT (MINIMUM LE 2/MONTH AND MAXIMUM LE 6/MONTH INCREASE) AND EXEMPTS MILITARY AND POLICE FROM NATIONAL SECURITY TAX. BILL, ACCORDING TO PRESS, WILL GO INTO EFFECT JULY 1.
- 2. SECOND BILL REPORTEDLY PROVIDES AUTOMATIC STEP INCREASE FOR POLICEMEN ONE YEAR AFTER THEIR APPOINTMENT. POLICE OFFICERS WITH BACHELOR OF LAW DEGREE WILL BE PROMOTED TO LIEUTENANT WHILE THOSE PERFORMING DISTINGUISHED SERVICE WILL BE PROMOTED TO NEW RANK OF "DISTINGUISHED POLICEMAN". MORE TO THE POINT, DRAFT BILL WILL ALSO PROVIDE PENSION BENEFITS NOT SPECIFIED IN PRESS ACCOUNTS.
- 3. COMMENT: AS NOTED REFTEL, CABINET REPORTEDLY UNDER-LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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TOOK CONSIDERATION OF BILL PROVIDING SALARY INCREASE FOR ALL SPECIAL WAGE SCALE WORKERS, INCLUDING DIPLOMATIC CORPS, JUDICIARY AND UNIVERSITY PROFESSORS FOR PA ACTION DURING CURRENT SESSION. PENSION INCREASE IN AND OF ITSELF IS NOT LARGE ENOUGH TO PROVIDE A REAL MEASURE OF RELIEF. BILLS CALLING FOR IMPROVED POLICE AND MILITARY BENEFITS, HOWEVER, MAY BE MEANT AS GESTURE OF GOOD FAITH

WHILE PA DEBATES MORE COMPLEX ISSUE OF MILITARY AND POLICE SALARY RESTRUCTURE. EILTS

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